GET THE SHELL OUT OF HERE!

Shell Sponsorship = Corporate Greenwash

By sponsoring events like today's Shell tries to protect its reputation, distract our attention from its environmental and human rights crimes around the world, and buy our acceptance. When we challenge this, we strike a blow at Shell's brand, chip away at its power and move towards the day when Big Oil – like Big Tobacco – is no longer seen as socially acceptable. As we once kicked the tobacco companies out of our cultural institutions we must now do the same to the oil industry.

Remember climate change?

Climate change may not be a fashionable subject these days, but it's already claiming 300,000 lives a year. Glaciers are disappearing, sea levels are rising and extreme weather is becoming more extreme. As temperatures rise, we'll see more flooding, drought, disease, famine and war, creating hundreds of millions of refugees and destroying entire ecosystems and species. We can't afford to forget about climate change – or that companies like Shell are at the heart of the problem.

Shell's Dirty Secret- Nigeria

On 10th November 1995, Shell was complicit in the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other young Nigerian activists. But Shell's human rights abuses did not stop with their role in the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his Ogoni colleagues. Shell's routine payments to armed militants exacerbate conflict, and oil spills still devastate lives and the environment in the Niger Delta. According to Amnesty International, Oil spews into the Niger Delta every year equivalent to the BP "Deepwater Horizon" Gulf spill.

Rossport - Ireland

Shell is leading a project to build a pipeline carrying raw gas through the village of Rossport to a new refinery built on a shifting bog. This high-pressure pipeline, never before built in a populated area (a 'cost-saving' measure from Shell) is poisoning the land and endangers the residents who live just metres away. As building began local people saw their land being transformed from an area of outstanding natural beauty into an environmental disaster zone.

Tar Sands - Canada

The Tar Sands development in Alberta, Canada covers an area the size of England, with toxic lakes so huge they are visible from space, leaking poisons into the local water supply. The effects that tar sands are having on local First Nations communities are devastating. Not only are indigenous livelihoods and futures being destroyed, but communities on land where tar sands extraction has been imposed are experiencing disturbingly high rates of rare forms of cancer and auto-immune diseases.

Shell Profit - Our Loss

Shell's oil exploration and extraction activities undermine our collective future by pushing us ever closer to the brink of climate catastrophe. Shell doesn't want us to remember these horrific activities. So it channels a minuscule fraction of its obscene profits, which in 2011 equated to £35,000 a minute, into sponsoring events like today's to construct an image of social responsibility and divert public attention.

That's why we are here today

– to say NO to Shell's Greenwash and YES to a future without Big Oil

For more information and to get involved: www.risingtide.org.uk Twitter: @risingtide_UK
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